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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,576	07/01/2002	Wendell B. Colson	4686/00006	4800
22910	7590	11/19/2003	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 28 STATE STREET 28th FLOOR BOSTON, MA 02109-9601			SELLS, JAMES D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	
DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CLO 6

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/088,576	COLSON ET AL.
	Examiner James Sells	Art Unit 1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless ~

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Okajima et al (US Patent 4,794,855).

Okajima discloses a continuous press machine. As shown in Fig. 1, the machine 10 comprises upper and lower endless steel belts, housing 18, and conduits 24 and 38 connected to a source (not shown) of pressurized fluid F1 and F2. At col. 5, lines 31-38, Okajima discloses that fluids F1 and F2 can be either the same type or different types of fluid such as water, etc. At col. 5, lines 47-51, Okajima discloses that an IR heater and a heating plate may be mounted within space 20 and interposed between drum 14b and housing 18 so that material 16 can be preheated. At col. 5, lines 51-54, Okajima discloses that either heating means or cooling means may be provided in either the fluid source or the pressure chamber 28 so as to heat or cool fluid F1. At col. 10, lines 6-9, Okajima discloses that the material 16 can be pressed at a high pressure of up to 100 kg/cm².

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-4, 6, 9-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima et al as described above in paragraph 2 in view of Stuerzel (US Patent 5,536,356).

Stuerzel discloses a continuous heat sealing apparatus. As shown in Fig. 7a, the apparatus comprises upper and lower endless belts 100 and 104, heating plates or bars 110, 112, 114 and 116, and cooling section 118. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ a plurality of heating plates, as taught by Stuerzel, in the press of Okajima in order to provide adequate heat to the materials being pressed.

It is the examiner's position that without the disclosure of unexpected results, the specific heating, cooling and pressure elements as well as the materials being pressed are within the purview of one having ordinary skill in the art and would have been obvious to employ in the device of Okajima described above as a matter of design choice in order to facilitate pressing the materials.

References

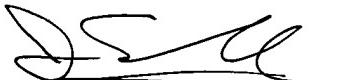
5. Reference C is cited as prior art of interest.

Telephone/Fax

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Sells whose telephone number is (703) 308-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (703) 308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



JAMES SELLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECH. CENTER 1700